Elements from Culturally Responsive Standards-Based Teaching:
Classroom to Community and Back(2010)
by Steffen Saifer, Keisha Edwards, Debbie Ellis, and Amy Stuczynski

Student Centered

- Students' lives, interests, families, communities, and/or cultures are the basis for what is taught.
- Students have some involvement in planning what they are learning and/or how they learn it.
- Instruction is built on the students' personal and cultural strengths.

Connected & Integrated

- Culturally responsive teaching strategies should not be a separate lesson but connected and integrated within the curriculum.
- Teachers discuss how subject matter is related to students' lives and why it is important to them.
- Interdisciplinary work is used to illustrate the relationships between different subjects.

Fosters Critical Thinking

- Teachers persuade students to formulate, share and debate their opinions.
- Students monitor their own level of understanding and become self-directed.
- Teachers teach students to recognize stereotypes and misconceptions.

Power to Transform

- Teachers help students recognize that the strengths and significance of their culture, community and family are valuable and worthy of study.
- Curriculum is transformed as students examine subject matter from many different perspectives.
- Schools provide opportunities for community members to see students in a new and positive light.

Relationships & Community

- Teachers recognize family and community members' knowledge and experiences as valuable to a child's education.
- Standards-based lessons provide reality-based, beyond the classroom experiences that allow students to comprehend new information more purposefully.
- Teachers use multiple avenues to include families in what is done in school.

Assessment & Reflection

- Teachers assess students through multiple and authentic means.
- Teachers help students create the rubric by which they will be assessed.
- Teachers encourage students to set personal goals and reflect on what they have learned.

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